

REMARKS

Applicants initially wish to thank Examiner Noguerola for participating in the conference call with Applicants' representatives on June 20, 2007. During the conference call, the Examiner indicated that the declaration submitted on June 6, 2007, was sufficient to overcome the outstanding rejections, and that the finality of the last Office action would be withdrawn.

Claims 1-55 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 17, 19, 20, 22-26, 36, 38-42, 45, 46 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Doretti, Tasset, and/or Heinsohn in view of Water Web. Claims 8-16, 18, 21, 27-35, 37, 43, 44, 47-53 and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing to the rejections and solely to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants hereby cancel claims 15, 34 and 52, and amend independent claims 1, 19 and 38 without any intention of disclaiming equivalents thereof, by incorporating the limitations from claims 15, 34 and 52, respectively. Accordingly, each of amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38 now recites a solution that includes a known oxygen content, HCO_3^- , and a concentration or amount of choline sufficient to reduce a rate of loss of oxygen content in the solution.

The Office action asserts that the oxygen content of a solution exposed to the atmosphere at sea level is expected to be about 158 mm Hg (citing Water Web). Applicants respectfully disagree with the accuracy of this statement. Water Web merely says that the partial pressure of oxygen in the atmosphere at sea level is approximately 158 mm Hg (based on the relation that the total atmospheric pressure at sea level is 760 mm Hg, and at sea level, approximately 20.8% of air is oxygen, hence $760 \text{ mm Hg} * 20.8\% \approx 158 \text{ mm Hg}$). Applicants submit that the actual amount or concentration of oxygen that can dissolve in a solution simply by exposing the solution to air at sea level will be a small fraction of 158 mm Hg, as one skilled in the art can readily determine using the appropriate Henry's Law constant (and explained in Water Web itself).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants submit that amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, along with any claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance timely be issued for this application. The Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this paper or to schedule an interview to discuss any aspect of this application.

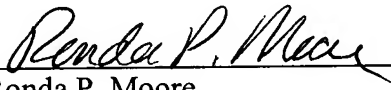
Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 21, 2007
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BOS-1107189 v1



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